

OGC Has Reviewed

15 February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Gifts from Foreign Officials

1. The law requires anything conferred or presented by a foreign government to a U. S. official be tendered through the Department of State and not to the individual unless authorized by act of Congress. There is not much information on the application of this law, and no rigid rule or set of procedures exist within the Department of State. The law appears, however, to be directed towards decorations, awards, and other items formally presented by the foreign government itself or on behalf of such a government.

2. It seems common to rationalize the receipt of gifts arising out of a personal or liaison relationship as gifts from the person and not from his government. Such items do not fall within the statute and they need not be reported to the Department of State or elsewhere. Where there appears to be a presentation within the statute, a recent Agency regulation, [REDACTED] states the policy that we will follow the general rule unless security prohibits. Presumably an official presentation by a foreign government to you would be handled in accordance with the statute.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

OGC:LRH:jeb

cc: OGC chrono

subject

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